

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated July 2, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire on October 2, 2004. In responding to the Action of July 2, 2004, Applicants have not amended the claims.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 7 and 10-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/00552057 by Lai *et. al* (*Lai*). Applicants respectfully submit that *Lai* does not anticipate Applicants' amended Claims Claims 1, 7 and 10-27, because Applicants' application claims priority to European Patent Application 00480012.4, filed December 1, 1999, as is described in Applicants' Declaration and Power of Attorney, filed on October 6, 2000 with Applicant's original application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have attached a reference copy of both Applicants' Declaration and Power of Attorney and Applicants' Certificate of Express Mailing, dated October 6, 2000.

While *Lai* does claim priority to both provisional application No. 60/211,095, filed on June 12, 2000 and Taiwan Patent Application 89116720, filed August 18, 2000, Applicant's claim of priority to European Patent Application 00480012.4, filed December 1, 1999, predates both of the priority claims of *Lai* and disqualifies *Lai* as a reference against Applicants' present application.

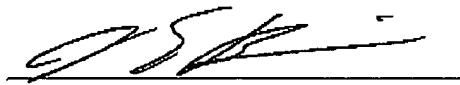
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all Claims are now in condition for allowance. Because the amendments and arguments overcome the claim rejections, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

No additional fees are believed to be required; however, in the event that additional fees are required, please charge any other fees necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION'S Deposit Account No. 09-0457.**

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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OCT 28 2000 PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE AND RETURN
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL NO. EK956403084US xx

DATE MAILED Oct. 6, 2000 DATE DUE: _____

APPLICATION AMEND. & TRANS. FORM
 DECLARATION IDS & FORM PTO 1449
 ASSIGNMENT & PTO 1659 PET. FOR EXT. OF TIME
 DRAWINGS 16 ISSUE FEE
 MISSING PARTS CERT. OF MAILING
 OTHER Certified Copy European APP 36929 U.S. PTO

DOCKET: FR9-1999-0035 US1 SER. NO. 09/680798
INTL. FILING DATE: 10/06/00 INTL APPLN. NO. 

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Benayoun et al. TITLE OF APPLICATION: Device for Connecting Two Workstations..

PGS. OF SPEC: 34 NO. OF CLAIMS 14 SHTS OF DWGS: 16

TOTAL CHARGES: \$750 DEPOSIT ACCT. NO. 09-0464
ATTORNEY: DEM

IBM Docket No. FR9-1999-0035 US1

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Device For Connecting Two Workstations With Several Links

the specification of which is identified by the attorney (IBM) Docket Number appearing above.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above- identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/Month/Year</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
00480012.4	Europe	01/12/99	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit (a) under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any U.S. application listed below and identified as a provisional application or (b) under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any U.S. application listed below and not identified as a provisional application, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior U.S. application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application

Prior U.S. Applications

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

IBM Docket No. FR9-1999-0035 US1

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith; Daniel E. McConnell, Reg. No. 20,360; Joscelyn G. Cockburn, Reg. No. 27,069; Horace St. Julian, Reg. No. 30,329; and Christopher A. Hughes, Reg. No. 26,914.

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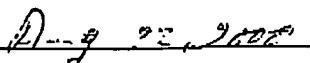
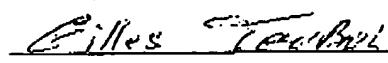
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